GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4825
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2016
Water Crisis
Girri Shri Maheish;Simha Shri Prathap

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANAGA REJUVENATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Government-constituted experts" Committee on "Palaeochannels of North-West India: Review and Assessment" has reported that the country can look at Palaeochannels as dependable sources of water to meet needs of the people living in parched regions and if so, the details thereof;
(b) whether the Government has considered these suggestions and plans to implement the same and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government has carried out a study to identify critical zones in terms of water scarcity or low groundwater level and if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the details of the Government plans to improve the drinking water and irrigation facilities in such zones along with the action taken in that direction so far?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR WATER RESOURCES, RIVER DEVELOPMENT AND GANGA REJUVENATION
(DR. SANJEEV KUMAR BALYAN)
(a) & (b) The Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR constituted an Expert Committee to Review available Information on Palaeo-channels. The Expert Committee based on Remote Sensing, Geological, Hydrogeological and Archaeological evidence has suggested several recommendations which include :
(i) Establishing data bank for compiling of scientific information on Palaeo-channels.
(ii)Delineation of sub-surface aquifer disposition of identified Palaeo-channels and assessment of ground water potential and feasibility of artificial recharge in those Palaeo-channels.
(iii)Establishing some prominent archaeological sites along the Palaeo-channels as heritage centres for academic/research activities.
(c) Central Ground Water Board (CGWB) carries out periodic assessment of ground water resources in the Country jointly with the State Governments. As per the latest assessment
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(2011), the total annual replenishable ground water resource of the Country is around 433 Billion Cubic Metres (BCM) and net annual ground water availability is 398 BCM. Out of 6607 assessment units (Blocks/ Mandals/ Talukas/ Districts) in the Country, 1071 units falling in 16 States and 2 UTs have been categorized as 'Over-exploited' where the annual ground water extraction exceeds the net annual ground water availability and significant decline in long term ground water level trend has been observed either in pre-monsoon or post-monsoon or both. The stage of ground water development in the country is 62%. State/UT-wise details are given at Annexure.
(d) Water being a State subject, State Governments makes necessary plans to improve the drinking water and irrigation facilities. However, in order to augment the ground water resources and control the depletion of ground water resources, Central Government takes several steps which include −
â€¢ The National Water Policy (2012) formulated by Ministry of Water Resources, RD & GR, inter-alia, advocates conservation, promotion and protection of water and highlights the need for augmenting the availability of water through rain water harvesting, direct use of rainfall and other management measures. The National Water Policy (2012) has been forwarded to all State Governments/ UTs and concerned Ministries/ Departments of Central Government for adoption.
â€¢ This Ministry works in close coordination with Ministry of Rural Development for groundwater recharge. The details of Water Conservation &Watershed Management works undertaken by the MoRD are as under :
â€¢ Further, MoRD has taken up an extensive programme for construction of farm ponds; 882325 farm ponds are being constructed under MGNREGA during the current year. They would also help in recharge of groundwater.
â€¢ The Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation has suggested all States to adopt water conservation measures like roof top rainwater harvesting, erecting sustainability structures for water conservation etc. For creating such sustainability structures, 10 % of National
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Sl.
No.
Work
Category
FY 2014-15
FY 2015-16
2016-17 as on 25/11/2016
Total Works
Expenditure
(Rs. In lakhs)
Total Works

Expenditure
(Rs. In lakhs)
Total Works
Expenditure
(Rs. In lakhs)
1
Water
Conservation
665700
312298.59
782585
399128.82
1144138
508227.89
2
Watershed Management
46675
158196.53
263464
188934.35
244898
181676.27
//3//
Rural Drinking Water Programme (NRDWP) funds are provided to the States. An expenditure of Rs. 573.79 crore was incurred during 2014-15, Rs. 195.94 crore in 2015-16 and Rs. 29.67 crore in 2016-17 (uptil 29.11.2016) for such works.
â€¢ CGWA has issued advisories to States and UTs to take measures to promote/adopt artificial recharge to ground water / rain water harvesting. 30 States/UTs have made rain water harvesting mandatory by enacting laws or by formulating rules & regulations or by including provisions in Building bye-laws or through suitable Government Orders.
â€¢ Department of Land Resources is currently implementing 8214 watershed development projects in 28 States covering an area of about 39.07 million ha. under the Watershed Development Component (WDC) of the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana (PMKSY) principally for development of rainfed portions of net cultivated area and culturable wastelands. The major activities taken up under the WDC-PMKSY, inter-alia, include ridge area treatment, drainage line afforestation, soil and moisture conservation, rain water harvesting, horticulture, and pasture development etc. An amount of Rs. 2284.63 crore was released as central share during 2014-15, Rs. 1487.83 crore in 2015-16 and Rs. 883.05 crore in 2016-17 (uptil 31.10.2016), for these works.
â€¢ This Ministry has circulated a Model Bill to all the States/UTs to enable them to enact suitable ground water legislation for its regulation and development which includes provision of rain water harvesting. So far, 15 States/UTs have adopted and implemented the ground water legislation on the lines of Model bill.
â€¢ CGWB has taken up Aquifer Mapping and Management programme during XII Plan, under the scheme of Ground Water Management and Regulation. The Aquifer Mapping is aimed to delineate aquifer disposition and their characterization for preparation of aquifer/area specific ground water management plans, with community participation.
â€¢ MoWR, RD & GR has also launched 'Jal Kranti Abhiyan' (2015-16 to 2017-18) in order to consolidate water conservation and management in the Country through a holistic and integrated approach involving all stakeholders, making it a mass movement.
â€¢ CGWB has been organizing mass awareness programmes in the Country to promote rain water harvesting and artificial recharge to ground water; more than 17 lakh children participated in a nation-wide painting competition in the last year to promote conservation of water.
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ANNEXURE
Annexure referred in reply to Lok Sabha Q.No. 4825 for reply on 15.12.2016 regarding "Water Crisis"
CATEGORIZATION OF BLOCKS/ MANDALS/ TALUKAS IN INDIA
(As on March 2011)
Sl.No.
States / Union Territories
Total No. of Assessed Units
Over-exploited
Nos.
%
States
1
Andhra Pradesh
662
41
6
2
Arunachal Pradesh
11
0
0
3
Assam
27
0

0
4
Bihar
533
0
0
5
Chhattisgarh
146
1
1
6
Delhi
27
18
67
7
Goa
20
0
0
8
Gujarat
223
24
11
9
Haryana
116
71
61
10
Himachal Pradesh
8
1
13
11
Jammu & Kashmir
14
0
0
12
Jharkhand
210
6
3
13
Karnataka
270
63
23
14
Kerala
152
1
1
15
Madhya Pradesh
313
24
8
16
Maharashtra
353
10
3
17
Manipur
8
0
0

18
Meghalaya
7
0
0
19
Mizoram
22
0
0
20
Nagaland
8
0
0
21
Odisha
314
0
0
22
Punjab
138
110
80
23
Rajasthan
243
172
71
24
Sikkim
4
0
0
25
Tamil Nadu
1129
374
33
26
Telangana
448
42
9
27
Tripura
39
0
0
28
Uttar Pradesh
820
111
14
29
Uttaranchal
18
0
0
30
West Bengal
271
0
0
Total (States)
6554
1069
16
Union Territories
1

Andaman & Nicobar
36
0
0
2
Chandigarh
1
0
0
3
Dadra & Nagar Haveli
1
0
0
4
Daman & Diu
2
1
50
5
Lakshadweep
9
0
0
6
Puducherry
4
1
25
Total (UTs)
53
2
4
Grand Total
6607
1071
16